

The Lantern
Faculty
Candle
Edition



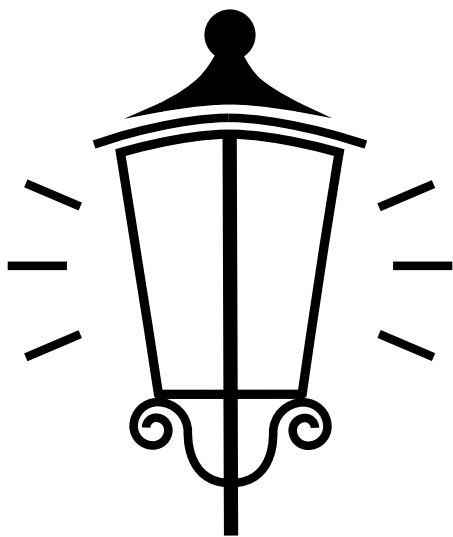
December 2024

The Lantern, begun in 1932, is Houghton University's student-run literary journal that exists to illuminate the thoughts and expressions of students and the greater Houghton community through works of literary and visual art.

The Lantern began as an offshoot of a literary competition that existed for over a decade before 1932. After that date, the *Lantern*, previously known as the *Lanthorn*, began printing the works of students and has continued to do so ever since.

*Faculty Candle
Edition*

December 2024



Letter from the Editors

Dear readers,

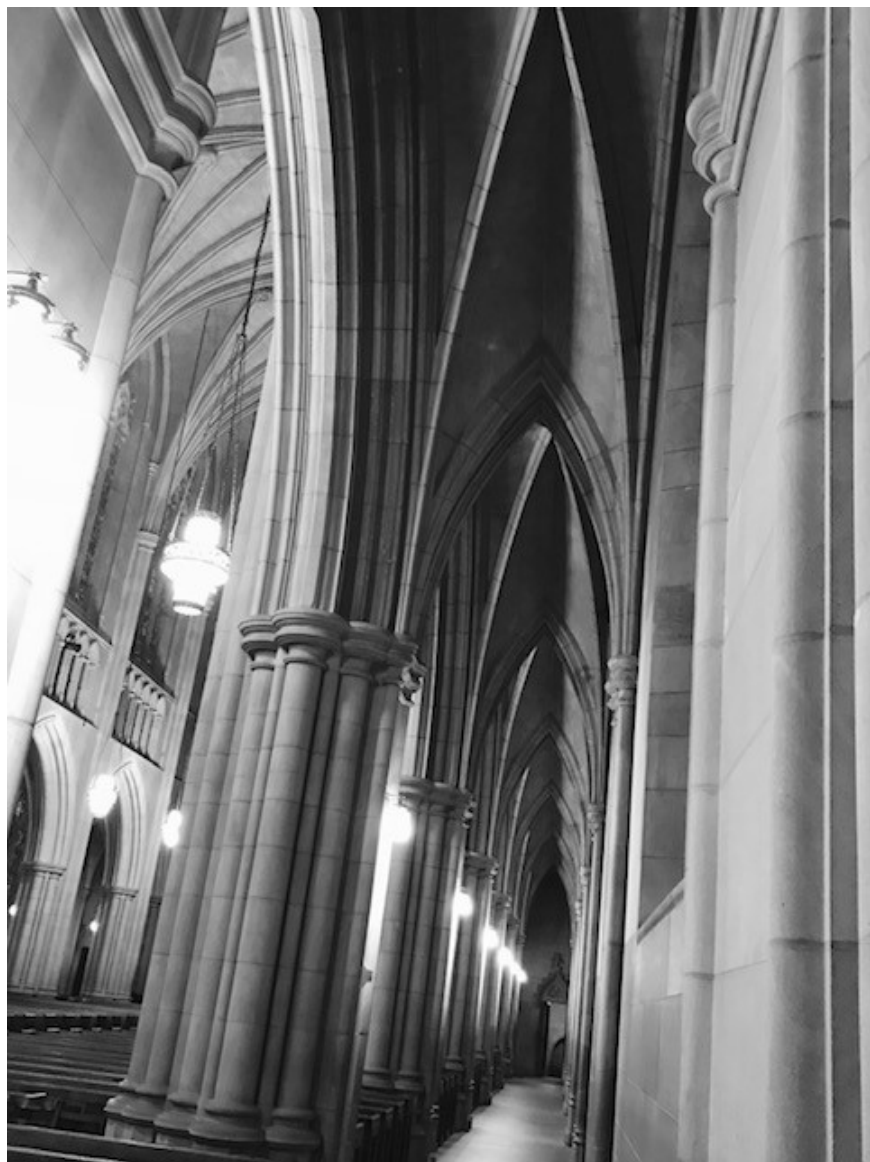
The original Candle started as a semester's end issue. However, this edition fell out of use after *Lantern* issues began being released monthly instead of once a semester, staying on for only a few years as a special issue. Now, we want to bring back this special Candle edition to showcase faculty creativity.

While the aim of the *Lantern* is to illuminate the thoughts and expressions of mainly students, the *Lantern* staff also wishes to include the creative explorations of the faculty. Therefore, we invite you to join with us in appreciating our professors' diverse skills in poetry, music, and photography.

Yours for lighting up the world,
Emma, Lee, Warren, Jonathan, & Keiryn

Table of Contents

Symmetries 1	Sharon Johnson	8
A Professor's Mite—Three Devotional Readings	Laurie Dashnau	7
Sculpture	Jonathan Gates	10
Symmetries 2	Sharon Johnson	11
Vergente mundi vespere	Carrie Magin	12
Symmetries	Sharon Johnson	14
Laundromat Love	Jonathan Gates	15
Starry Starry Sky	Elianna McHenry	16
Symmetries 4	Sharon Johnson	17
Author, Artist, & Musician Bios		18



Symmetries 1, Sharon Johnson
iPhone photography

A Professor's Mite—Three Devotional Readings

Laurie Dashnau

S-T-R-E-T-C-H!

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Tim. 4:8)

Expanded Passage: 1 Timothy 4:8-10

I've never enjoyed stretching. Give me a physical challenge and I'll do my best to rise to it. Go hiking in the Swiss Alps? Been there. Swim across a lake? Done that. But stretch my IT band, adductor muscles, and parts of my body I don't even know the names of? I'd much rather spend ten extra minutes doing intense aerobics than five minutes of warming up and cooling down. *Stretches are so routine. Boring. Unnecessary.*

That was my thinking and practice (or lack thereof) until health issues led to me making stretching part of my new normal. And so it is with spiritual exercises. If we want to be prayer warriors, we must find the time and space to pray or “small” matters daily. If we want to serve people beyond our community, we first must serve the people right in front of us.

David's preparation for God's service beautifully illustrates this truth. His time as a shepherd in the wilderness and the thirteen years between his first and second coronation, including his employment as Saul's armorbearer and harpist, were all part of his service as well as preparation for the future. In God's eyes, nothing is too mundane or miniscule to matter.

In order to ensure high-impact and non-injurious service in God's kingdom, we must faithfully stretch.

Looking Only Unto Jesus

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Ps. 20:17)

Expanded Passage: Psalm 20:1-9

Several years ago, my family and I were traveling out of state when we rounded a curve and found ourselves flanked by traffic; stuck on a railroad track; and with a train only a few hundred feet away, its horn blaring. Suffice it to say that this was one of the scariest experiences of my life. There was absolutely nothing we could do to save ourselves.

It's exceedingly tempting, when problems beset us, to give into indulgences; invest our hope in current or potential medical treatments or practitioners or Christian or political leaders, or seek new opportunities—new medicines, new jobs, new places to live, new churches, new hobbies—as modes of escape.

Crises remind us that, while God can and does use people and situations as instruments of His grace and mercy, we should first and foremost turn to Him. Ironically, the Israelites realized this only when the very things their foes, the Egyptians, used against them led to the latter's defeat rather than victory (Exod. 15).

When God rescues us in ways that we can see—as He did with my family and I—we give thanks. And when no rescue is imminent or obvious, we resolve to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7), still testifying to His presence, goodness, and sovereignty.

Earnestly seek God's help, remembering that He alone delivers.

Educative Growing Pains: Learning to Accept

Criticism Well

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. (Prov. 12:15)

Expanded Passage: Prov. 12:1-15

The report card in the first elementary school I attended not only contained subject matter percentiles but marks for character issues such as listening to others, being respectful, and meeting deadlines. Time and again, I'd receive plusses (excellent) for almost every item except one: accepts criticism well. In this area, I'd receive the kinder version of unsatisfactory: a "N" for "needs improvement."

I'd like to say that an open-minded, mature response of mine at ages four to nine resulted in me rising to the call. Instead, actually my response was, in keeping with my metaphorical scarlet letter, "N," to cry, cry some more, and then cry even more.

As Christians, we're called not only to accept criticism well—to be humble, open-minded, and responsive to opportunities for growth. Whether through the conviction of the Holy Spirit and scriptures (John 16:8-13 and 2 Tim. 3:16) or the words of godly mentors (Prov. 27:9 and Titus 2:3-5), we should listen carefully and respond proactively rather than reactively. Only then will we truly be wise, benefitting from an education that lasts a lifetime.

Well-received criticism is the first step to a fully transformed life.

Sculpture

Jonathan Gates

*Buried in bonds of bronze,
a mummy bound in shadow's cell,
stillbirthed,
unholy, shrouded in the veil.*

*Companion, trapped in bonds of bronze
Faintly stirs bearing dead weight:
Invisible shackles rattle at his feet.*

*A waking-whisper
"Walk," the sculptor begs the
manacled form.
"Run."*

*Then shouting,
"Free...free...free." "Free at last."
Hands reach for the Almighty.*



Symmetries 2, Sharon Johnson
iPhone photography

Vergente mundi vespere

for Mixed Chorus (SATB), a cappella

From VOICES OF LIGHT: An Advent Cantata
Commissioned in celebration of Advent by Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Cincinnati, Ohio; Michael Fuchs, Director of Music

Humbly expressive, gentle ♩ = 48
(tempo should push and pull expressively)

Carrie Magin

SOPRANO

Ver-gen-te mun - di _____ ves-pe-re, Ver-gen-te mun - di

ALTO

Ver-gen-te mun-di _____ ves-pe-re, Ver-gen-te mun - di

TENOR

Ver-gen-te mun - di _____ ves-pe-re, Ver-gen-te mun - di

BASS

Ver-gen-te mun - di _____ ves-pe-re, Ver-gen-te mun - di

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

6

S

ves-pe-re, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la -

A

ves-pe-re, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la-mo, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la -

T

ves-pe-re, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la-mo, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la -

B

ves-pe-re, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la-mo, u - ti spon - sus de tha - la -

Duration: Approx. 3'

The text to **Vergente mundi vespere** is the third stanza from “Conditor alme Siderum” (“Creator of the Stars of Night”), which is an anonymous 7th century Advent text.

*Vergente mundi vespere
uti sponsus de thalamo
egressus honestissima
Virginis matris clausula.*

When the old world drew on toward night,
thou camest, not in splendor bright
As monarch, but the humble child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

Vergente mundi vespere comes from the larger work **VOICES OF LIGHT: An Advent Cantata** for SATB Soli, SATB Chorus, brass trio, percussion, harp, and organ. This work was commissioned in celebration of Advent by Michael Fuchs and the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio (December, 2013).

**All texts were obtained from the public domain.*

Follow this QR code to listen to this piece.





Symmetries 3, Sharon Johnson
iPhone photography

Laundromat Love

Jonathan Gates

A pair:

Two mismatched

One caught in the sheets

One found on the floor

Of the laundromat on High.

Not young lovers,

They watch others

And talk about their work and

Her cat and his car.

She says, "Fold your shirts first."

He starts with his jeans

He says, "The socks are wet,"

She corrects, "They are damp."

They fold, stack and pack

Their loads, and gather keys and phones.

Their summer Sunday morning date

Nearly done,

He takes his basket to his car

And she to hers

And wave goodbye for now.

Starry Starry Sky

Elianna McHenry

*When gazing upon a midnight sky
you're met with specs of light.
The pictures they make so high above
inspire many things.
The names of them you rarely know
unless you take the time
To marvel at the symmetry
in the shapes of stars aloft.
Orion, a hunter with weapon drawn
the Ursas major and small
A horse, a lion, a scorpion
some without even a name.
You wonder as you look up high
if some stars there are dead
but it doesn't matter because somehow
their light is here and so are you.*



Symmetries 4, Sharon Johnson
iPhone photography

Author, Artist, & Musician Bios



Laurie Dashnau

I am a Professor of English and Writing and Director of the Writing Center.

Jonathan Gates

Professor of Writing and English, Dr. Gates has been responding to life through poetry for many years. He delights in words and the Word.

Sharon Johnson

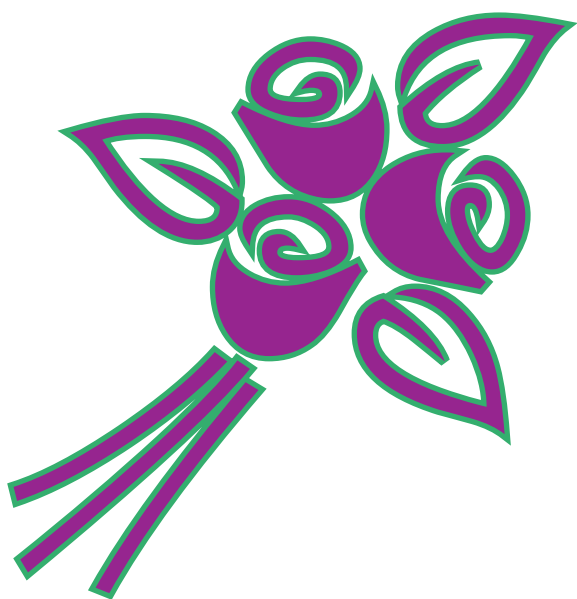
Sharon Johnson, Professor of Piano/Coordinator of Collaborative Piano.

Carrie Magin

Internationally-performed composer Carrie Magin traverses a wide emotional range with her fresh and universal voice. She has been commissioned by the Trombones of the Saint Louis Symphony, the University of Cincinnati's CCM Chorale, and WQXR New York Public Radio, among others. Her work has also been performed by Boston Opera Collaborative, Buffalo Chamber Players, and Vocalis Chamber Choir. She is Associate Professor and Area Coordinator of Composition and Theory at Houghton University, where she was named the Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts in 2023. She also teaches composition at the renowned Interlochen Arts Camp. Associate Professor of Composition and Theory.

Elianna McHenry

Elianna McHenry is the assistant professor of Accounting at Houghton University. She is an avid lover of words and the way they play together.





The Lantern; December 2024